

Lawn and Garden Equipment Replacement (LGER) Project Applicant Workshop Stakeholder Questions and Air Resources Board (ARB) Staff Responses

On November 16, 2010, ARB held an LGER Project Applicant Workshop to answer questions regarding the FY 2010-11 LGER Project Grant Proposal Solicitation (solicitation). This document provides ARB responses to stakeholder questions at the workshop.

Match Funding

Q: Please clarify match funding as “new funds.”

A: “New” match funds are defined as funds allocated for future exchange events and may only be used to increase the number of eligible cordless lawn and garden equipment funded. Match funding committed during the LGER Project Solicitation application period or later is considered eligible match funds (see Match Funding on page 3 of the FY 2010-11 LGER Project Solicitation).

Q: What is the purpose of the letters of commitment?

A: The letters of commitment are to be provided as a part of the application to verify each source of match funds the district will be committing (see Match Funding on page 3 of the FY 2010-11 LGER Project Solicitation).

Q: If the district is committing their own funds as match is a letter of commitment with an Air Pollution Control Officer’s (APCO) signature still required?

A: Yes. A letter of commitment is required for all sources of match funding and must have an APCO’s signature if the funds are from their own district or another district.

Q: Can Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds be used as match?

A: EPA funds may be used as match, however, these funds must be committed during the application period (November 4 – December 3, 2010) and verified with a letter of commitment from the EPA.

Q: Can leftover backup generator funds be used as match?

A: Yes. Backup generator funds may be used as match as long as the district follows the match funding requirements of the FY 2010-11 LGER Project (see Match Funding on page 3 of the FY 2010-11 LGER Project Solicitation and section 4.5 of the Draft Project Implementation Manual) and the funding requirements of the backup generator program.

Administration Funds

Q: Will there be administrative funds available?

A: Yes. Districts may request up to 10% of the total grant amount for administrative costs (see Available Funding on page 3 of the FY 2010-11 LGER Project Solicitation and section 4.2.2 of the Draft Implementation Manual).

Q: What can administrative funds be used for? Can they be used to pay for advertising? Can they be used to pay metal recyclers for their services?

A: Yes. The costs of advertising and subcontracting/hiring a metal recycler are eligible administrative costs. Districts who are awarded LGER Project funds may use up to ten percent of their grant for administrative costs and outreach while the remainder of the grant must be used towards the purchase of cordless zero-emission lawn and garden equipment. However, districts must apply for administrative funds by requesting it in their application.

Project Evaluation and Scoring

Q: Can districts still apply for FY 2010-11 LGER Project funds if they have funds left over from the FY 2009-10 LGER Project?

A: Districts with left over FY 2009-10 LGER Project funds may apply for the FY 2010-11 LGER Project (see Project Budget of the Evaluation and Scoring section on page 8 of the FY 2010-11 LGER Project Solicitation). However, please note that ARB will not disburse FY 2010-11 LGER funds to air districts that received LGER FY 2009-10 funds until all FY 2009-10 project and match funds have been fully expended and an approved final report had been submitted to ARB (see Funding Allocation on page 9 of the FY 2010-11 LGER Project Solicitation).

Q: Is the calculation that is used to determine the population of mowers available?

A: ARB determines the lawn mower population for each district by using ARB's Off-road Emissions Inventory. The inventory can be found online at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msei/offroad/offroad.htm> .

Air District Duties and Responsibilities

Q: ARB has the legal authority to adjust the rebate or voucher amount that districts can offer per piece of cordless zero-emission lawn and garden equipment. At what point will ARB make the decision to limit the rebate or voucher amount?

A: ARB will work with each district to determine the appropriate amount of State funds that can be used to fund rebates or vouchers while finalizing the implementation manual. Finalization of the implementation manual occurs once the grant agreement is signed and submitted to ARB.

Q: Are district exchange events open to everyone in the state since LGER Project funds are State funds?

A: No. The LGER Project Solicitation is a competitive solicitation and is open to air districts that are non-attainment for the federal 8-hour ozone. Districts are awarded points based on their designation and must limit the exchange events to their residents.

Q: Does the LGER Project require districts to issue Internal Revenue Service 1099 forms?

A: No. The LGER Project does not required districts to issue Internal Revenue Service 1099 forms.

Q: If LGER Project funds are paid to the lawn and garden vendor or manufacturer, will an Internal Revenue Service 1099 form be required?

A: See response above.

Q: Can districts request the total amount of project funds awarded or do they need to show documentation of all lawn and garden equipment reservations?

A: Districts may request all or some of their project funds once the district provides documentation of reservations that correspond to the amount requested (see section 4.2 of the Draft Project Implementation Manual).

Q: Is it acceptable to have an exchange program where lawn and garden equipment are dispersed at recyclers instead of hosting an event in a parking lot?

A: Yes (see Definitions in section 5 of the Draft Project Implementation Manual).

Q: Can districts issue rebates or vouchers without requiring participants to trade in their gas powered lawn and garden equipment?

A: No. The purpose of the LGER Project is to replace gas powered lawn and garden equipment with cordless zero-emission lawn and garden equipment and districts are required to destroy the old gas powered equipment.

Q: Is there an authorized list of vendors available for the LGER Project?

A: ARB currently does not have an authorized list of vendors however, once a list has been determined it will be provided to the districts.

Solicitation and Application Requirements

Q: Are districts required to submit letters of support from lawn and garden equipment vendors as a part of the application?

A: Districts may submit letters of support from vendors and manufacturers however, it is not required. Please note that districts are required to submit letters of commitment for each source of match funds as a part of the application.

Q: Are districts required to submit a board resolution upon submitting the application?

A: Districts are not required to submit a board resolution upon submitting the application. However, a resolution and signed grant agreement are required prior to the initial disbursement of funds.

Q: Do applications get submitted to Ms. Grace Garcia of ARB?

A: Yes (see Application Process on page 5 of the FY 2010-11 LGER Project Solicitation).

Q: Will the FY 2010-11 LGER Project Application (Appendix A) be available in Word?

A: The FY 2010-11 LGER Project Application is available in Word on our FY 2010-11 AQIP Grant Solicitations web page at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/aqip/solicitations.htm> . Please note that page A-1 of this document is a state approved application form and cannot be altered. Districts may fill/type in the applicant information on page A-1 however, ARB will not accept applications if this page has been changed (e.g. format). The form number must appear on the upper right corner and remain unchanged.

Carl Moyer Program

Q: Can you give an update on the Carl Moyer Program's (CMP) Lawn and Garden Equipment Replacement (L&GE)?

A: The CMP has proposed a new source category for lawn and garden equipment as a part of their proposed guideline revisions. The CMP is scheduled to go to the Board in March 2011 and if approved, the AB 118 Air Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) will no longer fund lawn and garden equipment replacement. More information regarding the CMP L&GE source category can be found on the CPM Retooling web page at:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/moyer/retooling.htm> .

Q: If the CMP's L&GE is not approved by the Board will the AB 118 AQIP continue to fund the LGER Project?

A: ARB will not make any determinations regarding the AB 118 AQIP LGER Project prior to the March 2011 Board Hearing.